

ESTABLISHING GUARDRAILS

Guardrails, Part 1

Ken Ritz * Sept 11, 2011 * New Life Vineyard Church

Guardrail: *"A system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limits areas."*

- Guardrails are not usually constructed in the dangerous area of the road, but in areas that you could otherwise drive on... however the area on the other side of the guardrail is dangerous enough that you don't even want to get close.
- Therefore, even though a guardrail decreases the space we have to drive and limits us a little, we understand the need because we recognize the danger that lies on the other side,
- In life, your greatest regret, financially, relationally, morally, ethically, or professionally, could likely have been avoided if there were some guardrails in place.

A new definition of a guardrail for a follower of Christ:

A _____ of behavior, that becomes a matter of conscience.

We put in place guardrails or personal standards of behavior, and become so committed to them that when we violate them, it bothers our conscience.

- Examples: drinking irresponsibly, sex outside of marriage, illegal drugs, financial irresponsibility.
- A loving father protects his kids by placing certain limits on his kids. Our heavenly Father does the same.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.
Ephesians 5:15-17

"Understand what the Lord's will is."

- God's will is not about going to the edge in every area of your life and getting away with as much as you can without actually sinning.
- You already know this, you already understand his will in these areas, now you need to accept and embrace it.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.

Ephesians 5:18

Debauchery: *"Extreme indulgence that results in a loss of _____."*

- Our Father doesn't want us to lose control in any area, whether its lust, alcohol, greed, anger, food, material possessions, etc.
- God doesn't want anything in our lives that leads to a loss of self control, or that we allow to dominate our lives. God doesn't want our lives to be dominated or controlled by anything besides the Holy Spirit..
- When you're dominated or controlled by something else, that will lead to the greatest regrets of your life.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18